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Dossier

27 January 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: SHORIKI Matsutaro

A check of Security Division files revealed voluminous information concerning subject. The following was copied for your information:

Check Sheet from G-2 to Legal Section, Inves Div, 9 May 1947, SHORIKI Matsutaro, Internee in Sugamo Prison

1. Curriculum Vitae of SHORIKI Matsutaro (TAB A) indicates that he was a man of undistinguished ancestors whose promising civil service career was terminated over the Namba Incident in 1923. Subsequently, he entered the newspaper field as a business, achieved phenomenal success, and eventually became involved in the Imperial Rule Assistance organizations and the Cabinet Information Board.

2. "Japanese Government Officials - 1937-1945", published by Military Intelligence Division, War Department, Washington, D. C., 21 July 1945, evaluates SHORIKI as per TAB B.

3. Evaluation of SHORIKI at the time of his arrest in December 1945 reads as per TAB C.

4. Direct and implied accusations embodied in these documents (TABs B and C) are as follows:

a. "Member of Preparatory Committee charged with working out details of organizing IHAA in 1940."

b. "According to OSS report SHORIKI became notorious for his activities when chief of the secretariat of the Metropolitan Police, Tokyo, by his ruthless treatment of political thought cases and by ordering raids on universities and colleges. He was the first senior police official to institute such raids on educational institutions."

c. "As proprietor of the Yomiuri Shinbun he strongly backed the Axis and urged Japanese adherence to the Tri-Partite Alliance. He is known to have had very close connections with the German Embassy and was known to be one of their chief propaganda outlets in Japan. He made of his newspaper the chief Army organ and through its wide circulation he actively promoted militaristic propaganda in Japan immediately preceding Pearl Harbor. He victimized newspaper men who did not see eye to eye with his pro-Axis policies."

d. "He was one of the most important journalists who actively propagated the Axis cause before the war and energetically supported it through the war. With the large circulation which his newspaper enjoyed he ought to be regarded as one of the most evil influences in poisoning the public mind."

e. "He is now resisting efforts by junior staff to remove him from control of Yomiuri because of pro-military record."

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FILE IN

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)

(2)(A) Privacy ☐

(2)(B) Methods/Sources ☒

(2)(G) Foreign Relations ☐

Declassified and Approved for Release
by the Central Intelligence Agency
Date: 2005

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5. SHORIKI is listed as having been a member of the DAI NIPPON GENRON HOKOKU KAI (Great Japan Speech and Publication Serve-the-Country Association), the DAI NIPPON SEIJI KAI (Great Japan Political Association), SHIMBUN REIMEI (Newspaper Federation), and the Dai Nippon Tokyo Baseball Club.

6. In addition, SHORIKI sponsored exhibition of art masterpieces, shown publicly for the first time; tours of American Major League baseball teams, American lawn tennis aces and French boxing champions. He is reputed to have built the most imposing lawn tennis stadium in the Far East.

7. Careful study of SHORIKI's case, with respect to the charges, direct and implied, made against him, shows the following:

a. SHORIKI held various positions in the official rosters of the TAISEI YOKUSAN KAI (Imperial Rule Assistance Association), the YOKUSAN SEIJI KAI (Imperial Rule Assistance Political Society), and the DAI NIPPON SEIJI KAI (Great Japan Political Association) as well as serving as a member of the preparatory committees of both organizations. Appointments were motivated by his position in the newspaper world. Validity of such activity as basis of war crimes charges depends upon the ultimate evaluation of the Imperial Rule Assistance organizations. In its study "War Politics in Japan", of which LS and IPS have copies, CIS has already given its opinion of these societies and of the men active in them:

"These societies were neither secret nor terroristic. Nor did they disband for the purpose of avoiding detection. They were basically political and patriotic organizations whose part in the wartime life Japan was to gear the nation's politics and economy to the war effort."

"Activity in one or more of these societies should not in itself be considered prime evidence of war responsibility but should be weighed carefully as to the extent of that activity as well as in the light of the individual's actions in other fields."

b. Regarding SHORIKI's police activities, referred to in 4b above, a report from the Office of Strategic Services is quoted;

"SHORIKI Matsutaro. Chief of the Secretariat of the Metropolitan Police in Tokyo at the time of the rice riots and took a firm hand with this agitation; particularly distinguished himself in his handling of the political thought problems by ordering the raids on universities and colleges which had hitherto been as inviolable; was forced to take the blame for the Toranomon incident and retire from public office; entered the field of journalism through Baron GO Seinosuke and through the generous loan of Count GOTO and introduced a great many new features to Japanese journalism; promoted the visit of American Major League baseball players to Japan in 1931 and organized the Japanese 'Giants', the first professional baseball team in Japan; built the lawn tennis stadium in Tokyo and invited aces such as Tilden and Vines to give exhibition games there; for much further information see source GOTO Kunihiro in Contemporary Japan, October 1940, p. 1275".

The Contemporary Japan article by GOTO Kunihiro, "Matsutaro Shoriki, A Rising Figure in Japanese Journalism", which the OSS report has briefed with a prejudice that should not be allowed to influence a court, is quoted verbatim in TAB D. Other sources verify GOTO's opinion of SHORIKI and his activities.

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In 1918, following World War I, inflationary pressures soared the price of rice and a serious shortage resulted. A movement for cheaper rice which assumed riot proportions over night, got underway. SHORIKI by virtue of his official police position was responsible for subduing these riots and restoring law and order. The fact that SHORIKI as shown by injuries suffered during amob assault endured personal physical danger while attempting to suppress the agitation should not be overlooked.

Also, in 1918, Communism took form as a school of political philosophy simultaneously with the inauguration of the Third International. Three years later Communism was introduced into Japan. The movement in its early stages (during the priod SHORIKI held office in the Metropolitan Police Board) is generally described as follows: 1921, "The Period of Preparation", when the pioneer Communists, many of whom were arrested, worked for the establishment of a definite party. 1922, "The Period of Infancy", when the First Japan Communist Party was inaugurated. 1923, "The Period of Development", when membership grew, although the leaders were arrested. It was during this period that Communism took hold in the universities and colleges and SHORIKI in his official police capacity had no other course but to order the raids. As a result of these raids 64, out of 70 Communists arrested, were indicted.

c. An exhaustive search to substantiate the accusation (4c and d) that SHORIKI "strongly backed the Axis... and is known to have had very close connections with the German Embassy and was known to be one of their chief propaganda outlets in Japan..." has been made. No valid evidence of such activity has found but reference is made to the accusation in the pamphlet "Matsutaro SHORIKI's Character and Career", written by his friends, of which LS and IPS have copies. According to TAKAHASHI Yusai, former vice president of the Yomiuri, this pamphlet was prepared by himself with the following close friends of SHORIKI: SHIMIZU Yohichiro (Yomiuri-Hochi staff), SHIMIZU Iku (lawyer), SHINAGAWA Kazuo (industrialist), and KINOSHITA Kenjiro. These friends and newspapers associates of SHORIKI state that there is no foundation for a broadcast made by Captain Zacharias from San Francisco on 26 May 1945 (TAE E), upon which this accusation is apparently based. The lack of other evidence appears to substantiate this claim.

In 1923 Daisuke NAMBA, anarchist, fired at the Emperor. The premier and the cabinet, accepting responsibility for the incident, resigned and SHORIKI was dismissed from his position with the Metropolitan Police. Count Shimpei GOTO, Home Minister, offered SHORIKI financial assistance to carry him over. GOTO noticed SHORIKI's administrative ability at the time of the Great Earthquake when he was Chief of the Police Affairs Bureau. In 1934, when SHORIKI was looking for financial assistance to enter the newspaper business, it was to GOTO he turned. GOTO raised 1000,000 yen and SHORIKI assumed the presidency of the 50-year old, bankrupt Yomiuri Shimbun. SHORIKI's constant efforts and special promotion schemes soon bore fruit. Circulation was upped from a bare 56,000 to over half a million copies by the end of twenty years. It is significant to note that the 1933 Edition of the Japan Yearbook states: "One of the significant phenomena in newspaper circles of recent years is the business management of large daily newspapers by those who are regarded as amateurs. For example, Mr. Matsutaro Shoriki, formerly Chief Secretary of the Metropolitan Police Board, assumed presidency of the Yomiuri." And, again, in the 1937 edition: "Of numerous papers, the Asahi and the Mainichi are the most widely circulated and the most popular with our intellectuals ... Recently the Yomiuri has come to run a close second in the race for press leadership."

SHORIKI is credited with having introduced many promotional ideas

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(copies from American newspapers) into Japanese journalism. The Yomiuri was first in publishing Sunday and evening editions; sports, radio and graphic pages; "Go" and Chess columns; children's sections, etc. SHORIKI's paper was the first to remove advertisements from its front page, and to publish two evening editions. As time passed and the Yomiuri made money, bigger promotional schemes were undertaken. The paper sponsored tours of American baseball teams, American tennis aces, French champion boxers, art exhibitions, etc. The 1935 Edition of the Japan Yearbook states: "The development of baseball in Japan owes much to the visits of American professional players ... Marking as one of the biggest events in the history of the Japanese baseball, 15 star baseball players of the American major leagues, made a barnstorming tour to Japan in the fall of 1934, at the invitation of the Yomiuri Shimbun. They arrived in Yokohama on November 2 and stayed for a month during which they made a clean sweep in winning 18 games against the All Japan nine in leading cities of the country. Mr. Connie Mack, the veteran baseball coach and manager of the Philadelphia Athletics Club, was the leader of the Team. The American team, including such famous players as Babe Ruth, homerun king, Louis Gehrig, Jimmy Foxx and Charles Gehringer, were given a tremendous welcome by the Japanese baseball fans in every city they visited..."

Thus, the Yomiuri became a phenomenally successful business venture, one practically unparalleled in modern newspaper history, and Count GOTO, before his death in 1928, was well repaid.

In the early part of 1935, during the controversy over the Organic Theory of the Emperor, advocated by Professor MINOBE of Tokyo Imperial University. "The Editor of the Yomiuri ventured to take the Doctor's part" and on 22 February, SHORIKI "was promptly the victim of a murderous attack by a patriotic ruffian", NAGASAKI Katsusuke of the BUSHIN KAI (Samurai Gods Society). It is significant to note that the owner rather than the editor was attacked. This was probably due to the fact that most newspaper owners are also editors but SHORIKI's activities remained within management limits. His name, either as an editor or an author, is not to be found in newspaper and literary archives.

d. The present disagreement which developed between the head of the Yomiuri and his employees following the occupation, is a labor-management problem and invalid as a basis for war crimes charges.

e. The DAI NIPPON SENRON HOKOKU KAI (Great Japan Speech and Publication Serve-the Country Association) (TAB F) was founded in December 1942 after the election forced a second functional and organizational upheaval in the IRAA. Association for the mobilization of national life which had been supervised or administered by the various ministries were transferred to the IRAA and thus became the associations to supervise production and cultural activities. The DAI NIPPON SENRON HOKOKU KAI replaced the HYORON ZUIHITSUKA KYOKAI (Critics and Essayists Association) founded in 1926, and its membership was about 1,000 composed of representatives from literary, social, bureaucratic and other fields. SHORIKI was a patron member by virtue of his prominence in the newspaper field.

f. It is noteworthy that the official rosters of the Cabinet Board of Information do not list SHORIKI until July 1943 when was appointed a Councillor. Councillors were chosen from among newspaper, motion picture, theatre and radio executives and such prominent news names as OGATA Taketora of the Asahi, TAKAISHI Shingoro of the Mainichi and FURUNO Inosuke of the Domei appeared as Councillors in 1938 shortly after the New Cabinet Information Board was formed.

g. In 1933 the Military Police arrested SHORIKI on the grounds that the Yomiuri possessed a short-wave radio but released him after questioning him about his relations with prominent business men and his employees. This

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action by the KEMPEI TAI suggests prejudice as all other newspapers were so equipped to pick up foreign news.

h. In lieu of the accusations made against SHORIKI, it is pertinent to note that before Pearl Harbor his name is not linked with any of Japan's political or military leaders, he was not active in political or nationalistic organizations, nor did he hold bureaucratic posts. SHORIKI became involved in the Cabinet Board of Information late in the war and was appointed a member of the Cabinet Advisory Council at the tail end during the KOISO Cabinet in July 1944 and the peace-making SUZUKI Cabinet in April 1945.

8. In summary, accusations against SHORIKI appear to be of an ideological and political nature, exaggerated by wartime propaganda and unsubstantiated by any specific evidence other than SHORIKI was a prominent newspaper manager who eventually had to fill bureaucratic posts and "go along" to stay in business.

9. Unless it is decided as a matter of policy that activity in the Imperial Rule Assistance organizations and/or success in the newspaper business (without consideration of motivating circumstances) are bases for indictment, G-2 recommends release of SHORIKI from internment without preference of charges.

TAB A - Curriculum Vitae of SHORIKI Matsutaro

TAB B - Extract from "Japanese Government Officials, 1937-1945"

TAB C - Evaluation of SHORIKI Matsutaro at time of arrest

TAB D - Matsutaro Shoriki, A Rising Figure in Japanese Journalism

TAB E - Excerpt from "Matsutaro Shoriki's Character and Career"

TAB F - DAI NIPPON GENRON HOKOKU KAI.

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Curriculum Vitae of SHORIKI Matsutaro

1885 Apr Born, Toyama Prefecture
 1911 Graduated, Tokyo Imperial University (Law)
 1911 Bureau of Statistics of the Cabinet
 1913-1924 Metropolitan Police Board
 Chief of Secretariat
 Chief of Criminal Bureau
 Chief of Police Affairs Bureau
 1924 Dismissed from Metropolitan Board over NAMBA Incident
 1924 President, YOMIURI SHIMBUN SHA
 President, Yomiuri Welfare Foundation
 1929-1930 Sponsored, Public Exhibitions of Art Masterpieces, shown for
 the first time in Japan
 1931 Sponsored, Tour of American Professional Baseball Team
 1933 Agreement with Hearst Newspaper Syndicate
 1933 Sponsored, Tour of French Champion Boxers, Pradner, Lapbel
 and Hague
 1934 Sponsored, Tour of American Major League Baseball Teams
 1936 Sponsored, Tour of American Lawn Tennis Aces, Tilden and Vines
 1943 President, YOMIURI-HOCHI SHIMBUN, formed by merger of
 YOMIURI SHIMBUN and HOCHI SHIMBUN
 1943 Member, Privy Council
 1943 Councillor, Cabinet Information Board
 1943 Patron Member, DAI NIPPON GENRON HOKOKU KAI (Great Japan Speech
 and Publication Serve-the Country Association)
 1944 Member, House of Peers
 1940-1985 TAISEI YOKUSAN KAI (Imperial Rule Assistance Association)
 Member, SHIN TAISEI JUMBI IIN KAI (New Structure Preparatory
 Committee) 1940 Aug
 Advisor 1944 Oct-1946 Apr
 Director 1940-1944, incl.
 1942-1944 YOKUSAN SEIJI KAI (Imperial Rule Assistance Political Society)
 Member, YOKUSAN SEIJI RYOKU KESSHU JUMBI KAI (Preparatory
 Committee)
 Consultant 1942 Aug
 Director 1943, 1944
 1943 Director, DAI NIPPON SEIJI KAI (Great Japan Political Association)
 1944 Jul-
 1945 Apr Member, Cabinet Advisory Council, KOISO Cabinet
 1945 Apr-
 1945 Aug Member, Cabinet Advisory Council, SUSUKI Cabinet
 Director, SHIMBUN REMMEI (Newspaper Federation)
 Member, DAI NIPPON TOKYO BASEBALL CLUB
 1945 Dec 12 Interned at Sugamo Prison as a war crimes suspect

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Extract from "Japanese Government Officials - 1937-1945", published by military Intelligence Division, War Department, Washington, D. C., 21 July 1945

"Matsutaro SHORIKI: Member Privy Council. Former Cabinet advisor.

1885 Born Toyama Prefecture. Son of Shojiro Shoriki. Married
Hama, sister of Seiji Yoshiwara
1911 Graduated Law College Tokyo Imperial University
1911 Entered Civil Service
" Chief, Criminal Bureau of Metropolitan Police Board.
1924 Resigned above post
" President Yomiuri Shimibun; Chairman, Hochi Shimibun
Director Imperial Rule Assistance Association; Director
Imperial Rule Assistance Political Society (now
dissolved) Dai Nippon Tokyo Baseball Club.
1943 Councillor, Cabinet Information Board
1944 May Appointed member, Privy Council
1944 Oct Appointed Cabinet Advisor
1945 Apr Resigned with Koiso Cabinet
1945 June Appointed Councillor Board of Information

Address: 1 of 2, Shikoka-machi, Shiba-ku, Tokyo.

"Veteran newspaperman. Member of Preparatory Committee charged with working out details of organizing IRRA in 1940. Received Silver Cup from His Majesty on 12 September 1944 upon recommendation of War and Navy Ministries."

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Evaluation of SHORIKI Matsutaro Security Information, 12 December 1945

"SHORIKI Matsutaro

"A former chief of the Criminal Bureau of the Metropolitan Police Bureau and since 1924 President of Yomiuri Shimbun (this newspaper later amalgamated with the Hochi Shimbun which he also owned.)

"According to OSS report SHORIKI became notorious for his activities when chief of the secretariat of the Metropolitan Police, Tokyo, by his ruthless treatment of political thought cases and by ordering raids on universities and colleges. He was the first senior police official to institute such raids on educational institutions.

"As proprietor of the Yomiuri Shimbun he strongly backed the Axis and urged Japanese adherence to the Tri-Partite Alliance. He is known to have had very close connections with the Germany Embassy and was known to be one of their chief propaganda outlets in Japan. He made his newspaper the chief Army organ and through its wide circulation he actively promoted militaristic propaganda in Japan immediately preceding Pearl Harbor. He victimized newspaper men who did not see eye to eye with his pro-Axis policies.

"He was one of the most important journalists who actively propagated the Axis cause before the war and energetically supported it through the war. With the large circulation which his newspaper enjoyed he ought to be regarded as one of the most evil influences in poisoning the public mind. He is now resisting efforts by junior staff to remove him from control of Yomiuri because of pro-military record."

Arrested 12 December 1945, Sugamo Prison

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MATSUTARO SHORIKI, A RISING
FIGURE IN JAPANESE JOURNALISM

By Kumihiko GOTO

"Matsutaro Shoriki was chief of the secretariats of the Metropolitan Police when I first became really well acquainted with him. Then, as later, he always proved capable of any situation that arose and had a remarkable ability as an originator of ideas and a leader of men. It is possible that he developed those qualities even when a young schoolboy, although he was not the sort of student who ground his way from cover to cover through school books. We were not in the same college, but if I remember correctly he stood out at that time as captain of the Jujitsu team, when he used to floor man after man in the inter-collegiate contests.

"Graduating from university he successfully passed the civil service examinations, but was not so fortunate in finding employment, beginning in the Cabinet Bureau of Statistics for the simple reason that there was no better place for him. Later he transferred to the Metropolitan Police Board and in turn became superintendent, chief of the criminal section, and finally chief of the secretariate, thus making himself one of the most useful men in the organization. A man of keen and quick perception, he is capable of coming straight to the point and seldom errs in the conclusions he draws. His figures are too complicated for him, and without any trace of mental effort, he calculates rapidly. These abilities, combined with a wonderfully retentive memory, have made him an exceptional man.

"It was when he was chief of the secretariate in the Metropolitan Police that I first came across him in public life since our casual acquaintance in earlier days. His work in the secretariate won him such a reputation that whenever that department was mentioned his name was immediately associated with it. Mr. Shoriki first won public recognition through the so-called rice riots of August, 1918. These popular uprising took place when, as a result of inflation, the rice prices soared. In anticipation of higher prices, those who held rice stocks were reluctant to sell and there emerged a serious shortage. The first to protest was a number of fishermen's wives in a small community in Toyama Prefecture, incidentally Mr. Shoriki's birth place. The movement for cheaper rice thus started spread like wildfire. Then inspector of police, Mr. Shoriki was literally thrown against the popular movement, he and other officers going out to suppress the agitation. In the neighbourhood of the rice exchange at Kakigara-cho, the officers were assaulted by a mob. All fled by Mr. Shoriki, who, with his back to a telegraph pole, held his ground until he became insensible and fell. The next day, however, he was back at work, his face bandaged, but otherwise little the worse. Dealing with the agitation with unabated vigour, he finally succeeded in subduing it in Tokyo. The man who thus proved himself capable of such courage and determination deserved the attention he received. Those who only heard of him at the time know and remember him as a man who would shrink from nothing.

"After he entered the secretariate which dealt with various affairs, including certain aspects of politics, Mr. Shoriki was brought into contact with the leading men of political circles, including both Houses of the Diet. His character and abilities won many friends and confidence in many quarters. He particularly distinguished himself in dealing with political thought movements.

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The liberal movement was then at its height with an increasing tendency to assume a communistic colour. There was no question as to the course to be taken by the police, and Mr. Shoriki had no doubt about the way he would solve the problem. It was he who ordered raids in universities and colleges which had hitherto been held as 'inviolably sacred.'

"Mr. Shoriki's official career, however, was brought to a sudden end in 1923, by what is known as the Teranomon incident. Then chief of the police administration section, he had to take the blame and retire from office, together with Kurahei Yuasa who was then chief of the Metropolitan Police Board. After an Imperial decree of amnesty was issued later, Mr. Shoriki might have returned to civil service, and in fact he was once offered the position of a prefectural governor, but he was not to retrace his steps over the old ground. Had it not been for this unfortunate incident, he would have been promoted early the following year to the position of chief of the Police Bureau of the Home Office by Count Shimpei Goto, its Minister, who placed deep confidence in him. In view of his abilities, it is quite probable that he would have climbed the official ladder still higher into the field of party politics had he resumed his official career.

"It happened about this time that two newspapers were on the market, one of which was the Yomiuri. Sometime in February 1924, I met Mr. Shoriki at a club and was told that he planned to enter the field of journalism. I advised him that if he were to take over either of the two papers, the Yomiuri would be better, and explained to him its financial condition. I then offered to introduce him to Baron Seinosuke Go., who had been one of the strongest financial supporters of the paper. Baron Go was at once impressed and was ready to enter into a full discussion of the proposed deal. An understanding was soon reached, but Mr. Shoriki found that before he could make a definite settlement, he would have to provide himself with ready cash to the amount of one hundred thousand yen.

"The about-to-be publisher had little idea where or how he could raise this fund. There was only one remote possibility. He remembered that, when he had retired from civil service under the unusual circumstances mentioned above, he was offered by Count Goto a sum of ten thousand yen with which to carry himself on for the time being and how he had declined the kind offer. The man who could be so generous at that time, might be no less so again.

"The unexpected caller from Tokyo was at once received by the statesman who had just returned from a visit to Prince Saionji. The purpose of the call was briefly explained. For a minute, or so Count Goto remained silent. 'You shall have the money', was his final and brief reply. As the visitor was about to go, however, the Count called him back. 'This newspaper game is something new for me. The only thing I know about it is that everyone says it's difficult to run a newspaper. If by any chance you don't find things going as they should, let no thought of the money you take from me keep you there. Just wash your hands of the whole business.' The meeting had lasted little more than three minutes and well shows what confidence the late statesman placed in Mr. Shoriki.

"It was not known until after he died just how Count Goto raised the money for Mr. Shoriki. But it was later revealed that he returned to Tokyo and mortgaged his estate. First, only seventy thousand yen was

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forthcoming, but the Count succeeded in raising the balance the following day. Needless to say, Mr. Shoriki always remained a loyal supporter of the Count, and his one ambition was to see him rise to the Premiership. After the death of Count Goto, Mr. Shoriki confined his attention to journalism, and it is not improbable that through the loss of the statesman whom he always thought should lead his country, he lost all interest in political affairs.

"One of the distinct characteristics of Mr. Shoriki is his unique power of persuasion. His method is simple and never studied, but it never fails. I know no instance of his failing where he set forth to convince anyone. Except for this characteristic, he could hardly have tided himself over the difficulties he encountered after taking over the Yomiuri. There are instances even nearer at hand. One of the most outstanding 'hits' in journalism in recent years was "The Story of Taiko", run serially in the Yomiuri, which was made possible only through the understanding which Mr. Shoriki himself reached with its author, Yeiji Yoshikawa. No less spectacular success was achieved when Mr. Shoriki got Kikugoro, the first luminary of the Kabuki stage, to agree to the presentation of this story on the boards, he himself taking the leading role. Entrenched firmly in the stage tradition that he guards with a will that few can bend, Kikugoro is not usually open to any new proposition except from his intimate theatrical circle. But he met Mr. Shoriki for the first time and was so favorably impressed that he gave his ready assent to the proposition laid before him. Their mutual appreciation so deepened that when the Yomiuri's new building was completed, Kikugoro, whom no promise of reward could have moved, was only too glad to present his dance performance at the special celebration programme.

"The situation that Mr. Shoriki had to face immediately after he took over the Yomiuri perhaps brought out the best that was in him. It showed how equal he was to all situations and how far and deeply he could trust others when they merited his confidence. With the fund provided by Count Goto, he went into the newspaper office and allotted allowances for the proprietor and staff members who were retiring. But he soon realized that others would retire also. In fact, the whole organization was opposed to the man who had come from quarters for which they had not love to lose. Chujiro Matsuyama, the retiring proprietor, knew that the whole staff would resign the day the new proprietor assumed office, but had taken no pains to reason with them. It was clear beyond any doubt that there would be no issue to the paper the day after Mr. Shoriki took it over. Against such a contingency a few of his friends, including myself, held themselves ready at a club not far away. If the worst had happened, this group would at least have turned out an abridged edition of the paper. Mr. Shoriki then saw each one of those whom he hoped to retain in service, but he was invariably unsuccessful. Finally, he decided to see Kameo Chiba, who has been chief of the social section of the editorial staff and was also one of those determined to resign. It was half an hour past midnight when he made this decision and he set out to look for the man he had never seen before or known. It was only known that he was trustworthy and held in high esteem by those who had worked with him, and that he lived somewhere out in Ohmori, the southwestern suburb of Tokyo. After an hour's search the house was found, and the interview began at half past one in the morning. By half past four Chiba had agreed to withdraw his resignation. He had been moved by the whole-hearted confidence that had been placed in him with all force of sincerity. That this confidence was not misplaced was shown by the fact that once he had decided to stay, the whole atmosphere changed.

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Where Mr. Shoriki had found only a spirit of opposition and hostility, he now found support and co-operation.

"With the reins of the whole establishment in his hands, Mr. Shoriki drove it at full speed. He put his heart and soul into the business and was determined to rebuild the paper from the very foundation. Two distinct aspects received his foremost attention. One of them was the improvement of the paper itself. He himself was responsible for a succession of renovations and new features. Always alive to the movements and currents of the times, he planned to cater to the demands of the public. He was the first to give a whole page each day to radio news and broadcasting programmes. The Yomiuri alone issued an evening edition on Sundays. It was the first paper to give prominence to Japanese chess and go, daily sparing a goodly space to accounts of the game between the go title holder and his challenger. It was also the first to introduce a cartoon page, a sport news section, and columns for scientific and religious activities. On Sunday a children's paper in colour was added as a supplement. When the Sino-Japanese hostilities broke out, a noontime edition was introduced as a regular feature. The foreign News section was extended by the purchase or releases from the International News Service which had hitherto been excluded from the Japanese press. It would be no exaggeration to say that there has been no original news set-up or novel features in Japanese journalism in the past decade that is not traceable to Mr. Shoriki's resources and originality. He has always been setting a pace for all other metropolitan papers.

"Parallel with the continuous improvement of his paper, Mr. Shoriki sponsored many exhibitions and other public undertakings. The first was the exhibition of national treasures of fine arts which was held in 1929 with His Imperial Highness Prince Kan-in as honorary president. At the second exhibition held next year there was an exceedingly large collection of art objects designated as national treasures and owned by former feudal lords and houses of honoured ancestry. In the following year a group of professional baseball players of the American Major League was invited to Japan to give a series of exhibition games. Such an undertaking had never been attempted before and involved considerable risks but was highly successful, stimulating baseball in Japan and raising the paper's prestige skyward. It was not by accident that Mr. Shoriki shortly afterwards organized the first professional baseball team in the country, the 'Giants', which was followed by other teams to make the professional games as popular as they are now. The American professional baseball players who were invited a second time a few years later included Babe Ruth and was as successful as the first venture.

"To mention but a few more examples of these numerous enterprising schemes, it was Mr. Shoriki who built in Tokyo the most imposing lawn tennis stadium in the Far East and invited world aces like Tilden and Vines to give exhibition matches there. The public support now given to boxing also owes not a little to the paper that invited a star boxer from France and otherwise spared much space to popularize this sport. More recently, the Yomiuri has begun plans for a training platform for parachutists and an airport for gliders near Tokyo, both being the first undertakings of the kind in this country.

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"A new building worthy of housing the business of the Yomiuri was begun in June, 1935, and completed last November. On the occasion of celebrating its completion, Baron Go, speaking before the invited guests, stated that he could pledge his honour to say that the Yomiuri had achieved a circulation of more than 1,320,000 daily. This is a circulation above those which have always been regarded as the two largest newspapers in Tokyo, and close to the figure for the two major papers of Osaka, the Asahi and the Mainichi, which boast the largest circulations in Japan. When Mr. Shoriki took over the Yomiuri its circulation was given at modest figure of 50,000 daily. Few achievements in journalism can compare with this. Lord Northcliffe had to give thirty years before he made the Daily Mail what it was in his lifetime. The Yomiuri today represents an achievement made in half that time.

"This remarkable success is due mainly to Mr. Shoriki's energy and inexhaustible ideas. His business instinct enables him to grasp new trends and to seize new opportunities. He makes up his mind in an instant and a new scheme is quickly under way. Other papers, often as enterprising, must take counsel and consume time in adjusting themselves for any new departure. With the Yomiuri action at once follows decision. Its success, in the last analysis, is due to the personal and mental make-up of the man at its helm; it is essentially a one-man show and a highly successful one at that.

"The employees of the Yomiuri are nowadays well paid. But for some years their salary level was far lower as compared with those working for papers like the Asahi and the Nichi Nichi. But even when reward was small, I doubt if any other paper had a staff as hard working and as loyal. Wherever they may be, Yomiuri men always stand out, as they do now, from all others because of their hard work and consistent effort to do better than others. This attitude of the whole organization reflects that faith it places in its director. Even when the paper's fortune was low and its budget had to be rigidly controlled, the men were content because they knew their chief was sharing their lot and because they knew that he would share all good fortune if the paper rose. It is known that in those days Mr. Shoriki drew a modest salary of three hundred yen monthly from the paper. At the time there were probably some employees whose salaries were even higher. It was whispered among his men one winter that their chief was going without an overcoat, and they all knew why.

"Hardworking as they are, no Yomiuri men work harder than the chief. He used to come to the office at seven in the morning and work from ten to twelve or thirteen hours a day. For several years he never took a day off, his only holiday in the year being New Year's Day. He made himself familiar with every aspect of newspaper work. From the editorial desk to printing and advertising, there is nothing with which he is not well conversant. He knows the whole distributing system from one end to the other, and no country sales agent is in too out-of-the-way place to escape his attention. He knows how many copies they are selling this month and how many they sold last month. Local sales agents have discovered this when they happened to meet the owner, and they naturally feel encouraged when they learn that he takes such a close and personal interest in their business.

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"The Yomiuri has achieved a topnotch place among all Tokyo dailies and holds it. Its business still continues to grow. But it is hardly possible that its energetic owner will forever confine his activity to journalism. His eyes probably sweep wider horizons even if he knows how to bide his time. And those who know him well hope that his organizing and enterprising abilities and his untiring energy will be given still greater scope and still higher planes of work. He is rich in experience and ripe in wisdom; but he is still only fifty-six years old, a man, as we say, with many springs and autumns on the right side of life's book."

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Excerpt from "Matsutaro Shoriki Security Information and Career"
Pages 23, 24 and 25.

"(3) On May 26th, 1945 Captain Zacharias, spokesman of the U.S.A. Navy, made a broadcast from San Francisco and said:

"When a cultural convention was signed in 1938 between Japan and Germany, pro-nazi leaders in Japan made the spread of German influence possible through the medium of public opinion. For instance, it was an easy matter for Ehrich Wickert, representative of the German Propaganda Ministry who had his office in the German Embassy, to handle the Yomiuri Shimbun run by Shoriki. The Hochi Shimbun and even the Kokumin Shimbun, which was closely connected with the military, were under his control."

"In this connection, however, the following facts may be pointed out.

- "1. There was absolutely no foundation for the above report because the Yomiuri nothing to do with Ehrich Wickert. The Yomiuri at that time obtained information from the German Embassy through Councillor Milbach and Tsunashima, Japanese and a member of the embassy staff, in the same manner as other vernacular papers. The governing body of the Yomiuri Shimbun, and even the chief of the Europe and America department, did not know the name, Ehrich Wickert. Now Captain Zacharias came to make such a broadcast was, in fact, quite beyond the comprehension of Shoriki and the Yomiuri people.
- "2. Dispatches from special correspondents in Europe and D.N.B. news received through the Domei Tsushin were the whole information on Germany printed in the Yomiuri Shimbun because it had discontinued to report Trans-Ocean news in 1940, a year before the outbreak of the Pacific war. Thus, there was absolutely no truth in the statement that the Yomiuri had special relations with the German Propaganda Ministry.
- "3. As clearly shown by the news and comments appearing in the Yomiuri Shimbun at that time, the paper followed national policies already decided upon and was never under the influence of Germany.

"As stated above, Captain Zacharias's broadcast was absolutely unfounded. If the broadcast was not a war-time trick but a speech by Captain Zacharias in his capacity as spokesman of the U.S.A. Navy it cannot be left without correction.

"(4) The Yomiuri Shimbun was rather opposed to Japan's joining hands with Germany, and therefore soon after the signing of the German-Japanese anti-communistic pact in November, 1936 the following brief comment appeared in the 26th November issue of its evening edition.

"Why was it necessary for Japan to cooperate with Germany alone. It is a shame for her to sink to the standing of Czecho-Slovakia or Rumania. What a foolish policy to place her between Scylla and Charybdis. What she has done does not stand to reason, because while she advocates the parliamentary system her travelling companion is now Fascism."

The evening edition issued the following day, i.e., November 27th 1936, contained a brief comment:

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'China says she will resist communism by herself. China is very old and infirm but her statesmen are not. It is impossible to resist communism unless a nation's indomitable spirit is unbroken under any circumstances.'

"It seemed upon the surface of things that other newspapers welcomed the anti-communist pact between Japan and Germany, but they backbit and made cynical comments in their alleves. Thus, the straight forward comments in the Yomiuri aroused a great deal of interest and other papers were branded as cowards."

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